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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

The following comments are submitted in response to the FDA proposal of May 9, 2003 titled "Prior Notice of Imported Food Under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Act of 2002 (Docket # 2002N-0278) which has been reopened until May 14, 2004.

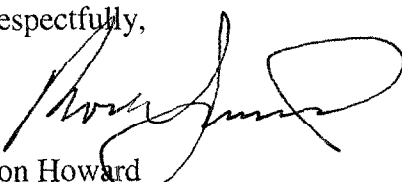
Continental Airlines, Chelsea Food Services is concerned about the effect Prior Notice regulations will have on our operations. We operate six catering locations providing service to Continental as well as 25 other airlines, together accounting for almost 200 daily international arrivals.

The spirit of the Prior Notice law is to protect the food supply from products that enter our ports from foreign destinations. However requiring detailed information from each international inbound aircraft on what leftover soda and liquor is impossible to calculate. Our onboard service does not conclude until 30 minutes prior to arrival at most locations. The majority of products in question are manufactured domestically and turned by the caterers in the international locations.

We as an airline understand the importance of protecting the public from acts of terrorism. The efforts of the both the FDA and Customs and Border Patrol could be better utilized concentrating on the portion of the food supply chain that pose a danger to the public.

We believe the airline industry should be exempt from the Prior Notice rule for items offered as a portion of an onboard service such as liquor and beverages. Our efforts will be concentrated on providing a product to the passenger that is high quality and safe for consumption.

Respectfully,



Ron Howard
Vice President, Food Services
Continental Airlines, Inc.

2002N-0278

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